

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A centerfilled chewing gum composition comprising a shell portion and a centerfill portion, said centerfill portion having no gum base comprising at least one non-water soluble or sparingly water soluble calcium-containing compound having an average particle size of ~~less than 17 from about 3 to 5~~ microns suspended in the centerfill portion and being relatively uniformly dispersed therein without settling, and being present in an effective amount sufficient to provide at least the minimum daily nutritional amount of calcium to a user by chewing a reasonable number of 3 to 5 pieces of the chewing gum composition per day.

Claim 2 (original): The chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the centerfill further comprises a suspending agent.

Claim 3 (original): The chewing gum composition of claim 2 wherein the suspending agent is selected from the group consisting of alginate, pectin, gelatin, starch, modified starch, and carboxymethylcellulose.

Claim 4 (original): The chewing gum composition of claim 2 wherein the suspending agent has a molecular weight such that a 1% to 2% aqueous solution of the suspending agent imparts a viscosity of from about 500 to 10,000 cps to the centerfill portion.

Claim 5 (original): The chewing gum composition of claim 4 wherein the viscosity is from about 2,000 to 6,000 cps.

Claim 6 (original): The chewing gum composition of claim 5 wherein the viscosity is from about 2,500 to 5,500 cps.

Claims 7-13 (cancel without prejudice).

Claim 14 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the calcium-containing compound is calcium carbonate.

Claim 15 (original): The chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the centerfill portion further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of vitamins, minerals, mineral salts and botanicals.

Claims 16 and 17 (canceled without prejudice).

Claim 18 (original): A method of delivering an effective amount of calcium to the oral cavity of a human being comprising chewing 3 to 5 pieces of the chewing gum composition of claim 1.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A centerfilled chewing gum composition comprising a shell portion and a centerfill portion, said centerfill portion having no

gum base comprising a suspending agent and at least one non-water soluble or sparingly water soluble calcium containing compound having an average particle size of less than about 17 microns calcium carbonate wherein 50% of the calcium carbonate has a particle size of about 0.8 micron and 50% has a particle size of about 15 microns, suspended in the centerfill portion and being relatively uniformly dispersed therein without settling, and being present in an effective amount[,] sufficient to provide at least the minimum daily nutritional amount of calcium to a user by chewing a reasonable number of 3 to 5 pieces of the chewing gum composition per day.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 19 wherein the suspending agent is selected from the group consisting of alginate, pectin, gelatin, starch, modified starch, and carboxymethylcellulose.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 19 wherein the suspending agent has a molecular weight such that a 1% to 2% aqueous solution of the suspending agent imparts a viscosity of from about 500 to 10,000 cps to the centerfill portion.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 21 wherein the viscosity is from about 2,000 to 6,000 cps.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 22 wherein the viscosity is from about 2,500 to 5,500 cps.

Claims 24 – 30 (canceled without prejudice).

Claim 31 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 19 wherein the centerfill portion further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of vitamins, minerals, mineral salts and botanicals.

Claim 32 (canceled without prejudice).

Claim 33 (previously presented): A method of delivering an effective amount of calcium to the oral cavity of a human being comprising chewing 3 to 5 pieces of the chewing gum composition of claim 19.